



AIM European Election Campaign kicks off together with EU Commissioner Vytenis Andriukaitis

AIM Board meetings, Thursday 15 November 2019: The member organizations of the Association Internationale de la Mutualité (AIM) adopted today a memorandum towards the European Elections of 2019. The memorandum sets out the demands and wishes of health insurance funds and health mutuals for the next legislative period.

The overarching goal for the European institutions must be to contribute to a truly social Europe. Health protection for all and social justice must be the cornerstones of EU policies; also because there are still unacceptable differences between Member States.



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Through collaboration at European level, we should address the challenges national healthcare systems are facing. This time calls for a solid social agenda for the EU.

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Christian Zahn, AIM President

According to AIM members, more emphasis should be put on health promotion and disease prevention. “Health in all policies” should be the approach of policymakers in all EU institutions. AIM sees enormous potential at EU level to improve health, by focussing on issues such as food quality, vaccination and tobacco use.

AIM calls upon the institutions to contribute to sustainable access to pharmaceuticals. Many health systems in Member States are overwhelmed by the costs of new medicines. AIM calls on the European institutions to review the incentives structure for the pharmaceutical sector. EU-wide cooperation between Member States and stakeholders could significantly improve access to medicines and help to balance all interests.

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Whether it is on prevention, digital health, or access to healthcare, the engagement of stakeholders like AIM is fundamental. Together, we need to ensure that health and social protection are at the very top of the European agenda.

We need a strong, inclusive social agenda that leaves no citizen behind. I very much welcome your memorandum for a more social and healthy Europe.

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Vytenis Andriukaitis, EU Commissioner for Health and Food Safety

Members of AIM demand the promotion of healthcare innovations. Resilient and accessible health systems can be established, for example through research programs such as Horizon 2020 and Horizon Europe. Innovation is also connected to big data. The EU should therefore facilitate the electronic exchange of social security data, taking into account problems caused by language barriers.

However, AIM is not only active in the EU, but it also has members from Latin America, the Middle East and Africa. Access to healthcare is a prerequisite for progress in developing countries. For this reason, AIM asks the EU institutions to ensure that international development cooperation addresses specifically access to healthcare for all, also by strengthening the role of healthcare mutuals.

The work of mutuals in Europe is important. They need political commitment to safeguard their specificities. Mutuals' non-profit status allows them to utilise surpluses for the benefit of their members. They are solidarity-based and democratically led. Their activities are hindered by European and national legislations such as tax regulations and competition law which are not adapted to their nature. It is therefore important to lift those existing barriers in order to allow mutuals to develop in the internal market.

15 November 2018

AIM is the umbrella organisation of health mutuals and health insurance funds in Europe and in the world. Through its 59 members from 30 countries, AIM provides health coverage to 240 million people in the world and 209 million in Europe through compulsory and/or complementary health insurance and managing health and social facilities. AIM strives to defend the access to healthcare for all through solidarity-based and non-for profit health insurance. Its mission is to provide a platform for members to exchange on common issues and to represent their interests and values in the European and international Institutions.



AIM

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